

REMARKS

By this Amendment, Applicant proposes amending claims 1, 6-11, 14, 22-24, 27, and 31, and canceling claim 17 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Accordingly, claims 1, 6-11, 13-16, 22-25, 27, and 30-33 will be pending upon entry of the claim amendments. The amended claims are fully supported by the application as originally filed, and no new matter will be introduced by this Amendment.

In the final Office Action mailed April 29, 2009, claims 1, 6-11, 14-17, 22-25, 27, and 31-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,687,587 to Kacel ("Kacel") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,539,026 to Waclawsky ("Waclawsky"); and claims 13 and 20 were allowed. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication of allowed subject matter.

Minor amendments have been made to the claims (e.g., claims 1 and 23) to maintain consistency with the independent claims.

I. 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection

Claims 1, 6-11, 14-17, 22-25, 27, and 31-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kacel* in view of *Waclawsky*. Applicant respectfully disagrees. However, for the purposes of expediting prosecution, Applicant proposes canceling independent claim 17, and amending independent claim 1 and dependent claims 6-11, 14, 22-24, 27, and 31 to depend from one of independent claims 13 and 30. The Office Action allowed independent claims 13 and 30. (Office Action, p. 8). Accordingly, claims 1, 6-11, 14-16, 22-25, 27, and 31-33 are in condition for allowance,

at least due to their dependence from one of allowed independent claims 13 and 30. The rejection of claims 1, 6-11, 14-16, 22-25, 27, and 31-33 is now moot and should be withdrawn.

II. Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Applicant respectfully requests that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner and that this application be allowed.

Applicant also submits that the entry of the amendments would place the application in better form for appeal, should the Examiner dispute the patentability of the pending claims.

In discussing the specification, claims, and drawings in this Amendment After Final, it is to be understood that Applicant is in no way intending to limit the scope of the claims to an exemplary embodiment described in the specification or abstract and/or shown in the drawings. Rather, Applicant is entitled to have the claims interpreted broadly, to the maximum extent permitted by statute, regulation, and applicable case law.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conversation might advance prosecution, the Examiner is cordially invited to call Applicant's undersigned representative at 202-408-4129.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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